

From: Colleen Walling/ESC/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 2/3/2012 11:32:46 AM
To: Helen Britz/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; Blase Etzel/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: Ross Miller/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; Keith Upah/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; Ed Messer/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Fw: ESAT validation of files for DIMOCK

This is the highest priority site. This is the one included in the Region 3 Hot List of sites. I just want to be prepared in the event ESAT is needed to work over the weekend; therefore I am requesting CO approval for overtime work hours for R3ESAT Lockheed/Martin to be able to perform the fast turn-around data review and also may include the need for sample log-in, glassware washing and other ancillary tasks, and possibly sample prep to be performed if needed. During the past years, OAM has always requested for the POs to submit a formal request for overtime prior to the occurrences of the overtime hours. This is as a precaution in the event ESAT support is needed. This request would be through next week. ESAT is performing data validation of the third party data; and performing laboratory support task activities (e.g., glassware cleaning, sample log-in, etc.). This Hot List effort is being supported by HQ and other regions as well.

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Friday, February 3, 2012

***** MORNING HOT LIST *****

Water utility rebuts Cabot arsenic claims

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE Pennsylvania American Water released six years of test results showing no evidence of arsenic at its Montrose public water supply on Thursday after a natural gas driller said this week that a Dimock Twp. water sample showing high levels of the chemical originated from the Montrose system. Annual samples taken at the Lake Montrose treatment plant between Feb. 6, 2006, and June 1, 2011, all show no detection of arsenic, which is known to cause cancer in humans. The water utility brought attention to the clean results Thursday to counter a claim by Cabot Oil and Gas Corp. this week that a water sample cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its investigation of gas drilling's impact on water supplies was trucked to Dimock from Montrose. Cabot raised the issue to criticize the foundation of the EPA's ongoing investigation in Dimock. The federal agency is conducting widespread water sampling and delivering replacement water to four homes as it tries to determine the source of several constituents of concern in Dimock well water, including arsenic, manganese, barium, glycols, sodium, phenol and the manufactured chemical commonly called DEHP. The contested sample contained arsenic at 37 micrograms per liter, or nearly four times the federal drinking water limit. Cabot said the EPA selectively cited or misinterpreted water quality data to reach a "predetermined" conclusion to justify its investigation - including mistaking replacement water delivered to backyard tanks for native Dimock well water. Pennsylvania American Water is now probing the source of Cabot's claims. "We have reached out to Cabot with numerous questions," spokeswoman Susan Turcmanovich said Thursday. The utility wants to know more about the water sampling, the chain of custody for the sample, the laboratory that performed the tests, the private contractor that hauled the water, and how the results were reported, she said. Cabot spokesman George Stark said he believes the water sample was taken from a bulk water tank or "buffalo" that was filled with public water from Montrose, but he said Cabot is "pulling all our records" and could not provide further details on Thursday.

Source for Dimock's emergency water disputes Cabot arsenic claim

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS Another party has entered the protracted squabble over the Environmental Protection Agency's decision to do its own tests of water in Dimock, allegedly fouled by Cabot Oil & Gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Pennsylvania American Water has countered Cabot's recent claim that arsenic readings came from the Pennsylvania American public water supply in Montrose rather than the water in Dimock. "We test for arsenic in all of our water systems," said Susan Turcmanovich, spokeswoman for Pennsylvania American Water. "We have had no detection of arsenic in any of our tests" since at least 2006, she said. And Turcmanovich clarified: "no detection means zero." "Any detection at all would be listed on our water quality report, and anything above 10ug/L would require public notification," she said. Turcmanovich supplied several years of reports to verify her claim. The EPA recently issued a letter in response to Cabot, but it did not address the specific claim that some of the samples it relied on for its decision did not come from Dimock. Cabot spokesman George Stark said the information the company has on the tests — which were apparently done by Dimock residents — indicates "that the water they tested was not from their well — it was from the water that was provided to them. The reading was what it was."

If you have any questions about the priority for this site you can call Ed Messer at 410-305-2744.

Colleen K. Walling
USEPA Region 3 Environmental Science Center
Office of Analytical Services and Quality Assurance
Environmental Assessment & Innovation Div. (3EA22)
701 Mapes Road
Ft. Meade, MD 20755-5350

Phone & Voicemail: 410-305-2763

Fax. No.: 410-305-3095

walling.colleen@epa.gov

----- Forwarded by Colleen Walling/ESC/R3/USEPA/US on 02/03/2012 11:15 AM -----

From: Colleen Walling/ESC/R3/USEPA/US

To:

Cc:

Ex. 4 - CBI

Metzger/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 02/03/2012 11:14 AM

Subject: Fw: ESAT validation of files

Please see the instructions below. This is for Dimock site and has the highest priority. I have revised the TDF to include all data contained in the packages and not just the parameters we discussed in the meeting earlier this week. The items listed in the second paragraph are to be completed ASAP by 1:00pm today. Ed is Acting Branch Chief for Fred Foreman.

Thanks!!!!!!!!!!

Colleen K. Walling
USEPA Region 3 Environmental Science Center
Office of Analytical Services and Quality Assurance
Environmental Assessment & Innovation Div. (3EA22)
701 Mapes Road
Ft. Meade, MD 20755-5350

Phone & Voicemail: 410-305-2763

Fax. No.: 410-305-3095

walling.colleen@epa.gov

----- Forwarded by Colleen Walling/ESC/R3/USEPA/US on 02/03/2012 11:02 AM -----

From: Ed Messer/ESC/R3/USEPA/US

To: Colleen Walling/ESC/R3/USEPA/US
Cc: Fred Foreman/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Cynthia Metzger/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Terry Simpson/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Mike Mahoney/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jarmael Burman/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/03/2012 10:59 AM
Subject: Fw: ESAT validation of files

Hi Colleen,

My understanding is that we want ESAT to fully data validate the historical Test America results provided by Cabot. These will be the first two files (August and September 2011) provided by Fred to ESAT. The third file (May 26, 2011) from URS can be put on hold until the two Test America cases are completed. The reasoning here is that these two large volume (~2000 pages) data packages from Test America were originally performed and delivered in a "CLP-type" package.

We would like you to task ESAT to go through the Test America data packages and verify that the CLP-type deliverables are complete and contain enough supporting data to be fully validated. If any data is found to be missing from the Test America deliverables that would prevent full data validation, then we'll need to know this ASAP. Identify a list of missing data (if any) for each parameter. If the package is found to have missing data, then what impact would it have on the data validation. Can the data deliverables from Test America (later URS) be fully validated with the information provided, partially validated, or cannot be validated?

The data validation priority for ESAT for this work will be as follows: Metals, Glycols, Semi-Volatiles, and then all other parameters in the data package. Additionally, we'll need an estimate from ESAT on the turnaround time to provide their review and reports to EPA of this data. Thanks.

EdM

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Ed Messer  
Environmental Scientist  
Office of Analytical Sciences and Quality Assurance  
EPA Region III Environmental Science Center  
701 Mapes Road  
Ft. Meade, MD 20755-5350  
410-305-2744 fax 410-305-3095

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----- Forwarded by Ed Messer/ESC/R3/USEPA/US on 02/03/2012 09:54 AM -----

From: Fred Foreman/ESC/R3/USEPA/US
To: Ed Messer/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Mike Mahoney/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jarmael Burman/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Brandon McDonald/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/02/2012 07:15 PM
Subject: ESAT validation of files

Mike/Ed,

Based on conversation with CindyM on the Dimock data review Mike is doing, we want to have ESAT validate three of the files. The files are:

Cabot -EPA 000176 TestAmerica results August 4, 2011.pdf
Cabot -EPA 001621 TestAmerica results September 1, 2011.pdf
Cabot -EPA 007946 URS May 26 2011 Focused Site Assessment Ana.pdf

I will forward them to ESAT.

Fred

Fred Foreman, Chief
Technical Services Branch
Office of Analytical Services & Quality Assurance
US EPA Region III
Ft. Meade, Maryland
410-305-2629